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<b>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>	
<b>REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 11/10/03</b>	<b>Atty. Docket No. VIGN1270</b>
<b>Applicants Kommers et al.</b>	
<b>Application Number 09/682,107</b>	<b>Date Filed 07/20/01</b>
<b>Title INFORMATION RETRIEVAL FROM A COLLECTION OF INFORMATION OBJECTS TAGGED WITH HIERARCHICAL KEYWORDS</b>	
<b>Group Art Unit 2171</b>	<b>Examiner Al-Hashemi, S.</b>

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

<p align="center"><b><u>Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8</u></b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February <u>5</u>, 2004.</p> <p align="center"> Carolyn J. Williams</p>
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In response to the Official Action mailed November 10, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims in view of the comments as set forth below.

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